

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending and allowed in this application.
Claim 9 has been amended.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.312 and MPEP § 714.16, the amendment to claim 9 merely corrects a formal matter in the claim without changing the scope thereof. The term "makes" has been re-inserted into claim 9 for clarity as this term was previously part of the claim and inadvertently deleted as part of the reply filed on May 3, 2004. In accordance with MPEP § 714.16, this amendment is needed to define the invention with sufficient clarity allowing for proper disclosure and protection of the invention, and requires no substantial amount of additional work on the part of the Office since the re-inserted term was originally part of the allowable claim as noted in the Action mailed on December 1, 2003.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments and remarks submitted above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the relevant requirements for 37 C.F.R. § 1.312 and MPEP 714.16 have been satisfied and admission of the Amendment after Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below,

to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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